

# Precept study on Revelation Part 1, Lesson 2

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## 1 Summary of last lesson

### 1.1 The author: John

Jesus crucified AD 29 or 30. John a disciple, exiled to the Island of Patmos. Received the Revelation about 95 AD, during the reign of Domitian, who persecuted the church. Historical references to the book in the 2nd century. Some claim it was written 65 AD, before the Temple was destroyed.

- a fisherman, brother of James, son of Zebedee. Matthew 4:21.
- Partner with Simon, called to be a fisher of men, Luke 5:10
- “son of thunder” Mark 3:17
- One of 3 who saw Jairus’ daughter raised from the dead, Mark 5:36-38. Luke 8:51.
- Saw the transfiguration. Matthew 17:1-3. Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28.
- Tried to prevent others from casting out demons. Mark 9:38 Luke 9:49.
- Wanted to call fire from heaven on the Samaritans, Luke 9:53-56
- Asked to sit at his right/left hand, Mark 10:35-41
- Asked what the sign will be for prophecy to be fulfilled. Mark 13:3-6
- Prepared the Passover, Luke 22:7-9
- Sat next to Jesus in the last supper, John 13:21-24
- Waited with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Mark 14:32-34
- Jesus asked him to take care of his mother, John 19:26
- Went with Peter to the tomb, John 20:1-9.
- Recognized Jesus at the side of the lake, John 21:6-8
- With the rest of the disciples in the Upper Room, Acts 1:13
- Peter asked Jesus about him, John 21:19-21
- With Peter when he healed a beggar. Acts 3:1
- Arrested with Peter and brought before the Sanhedrin, Acts 4.
- Sent to **Samaria**, Acts 8:14
- Brother James put to death with the sword, Acts 12:2
- Helped in Barnabas and Paul in Salamis, Acts 13:5
- Then left Salamis for Jerusalem, Acts 13:13
- Colleague of Paul, pillar of the church, sent to the circumcised. Galatians 2:9
- Wrote the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and Revelation. Referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Not mentioned by name in the Gospel of John.

## 1.2 Overview

- Who: From God to Jesus to His angel to John
- Why: to show to His bond-servants what must soon take place
- Promise: Blessed is he who reads/hears/heeds
- How: write in a book what you see, send to the 7 churches
- What: things seen, things which are, things to take place after

## 2 Chart

- the message: God → Jesus → angel → John → the bondservants of God.
- what we learn of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- where we see metaphor, simile, and literal descriptions. Sometimes the metaphors are clear and clearly explained in the text (Rev 1:20 for example).

## 3 Prologue: Rev 1:1-3

- keep an eye out for metaphor and simile
  - **metaphor**: Greek: meta (over) phore (carry). The use of a word or phrase to refer to something that it isn't, invoking a direct similarity between the word or phrase used and the thing described, but in the case of English without the words like or as, which would imply a simile.
  - **simile** Latin: parallel. A figure of speech in which one thing is compared to another, in the case of English generally using *like* or *as*.
- What do we learn about how this message is transmitted? (Draw diagram)
- word study: revelation: apokalypsis, apo (separate) kalypto (to veil). (1) laying bare, making naked. (2) a disclosure of truth, instruction. (2a) concerning things before unknown. (2b) used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all. (3) manifestation, appearance
- What is being revealed? Answer: things that must soon take place. This says more about what God is going to do, rather than to reveal God Himself. We *do* see a lot about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as a result, however.
- word study: shortly; (1:1 and 22:6): tachos quickness, speed. English words: tachometer (measures speed of rotation), tachyon (fictitious particle with negative mass), tachycardia/tachyarrhythmia (fast heart rate), tachygraphy (shorthand; fast writing).
- word study: communicated, semaino. from sema (signal). To give a sign, signal. English words: semaphore (to carry a signal)

- word study: blessed (makarios), happy. Problem with the word *happy* is that it comes from *hap* which means *chance* or *luck*. So someone who is happy has good luck. That sense doesn't fit how the word is used here. The same word is used in the beatitudes (*blessed are the meek...*).
- Ask if any similes or metaphors are used in 1:1-3

## 4 Introduction/Greeting: Rev 1:4-8

- What do we learn about the Trinity in vs 4-8?
  - v4: Him / His throne. This is the **The Father**. He is, was, is to come. 7 Spirits are before His throne. What are the 7 Spirits? Is this the Holy Spirit? Or are they angels? See also Rev 3:1, 4:5, 5:6, and Isaiah 11:1-2 (see below, numbering added).

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the **seven Spirits who are before His throne**, (1:4)

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the **seven Spirits of God** and the seven stars, says this: I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (3:1)

Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were **seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God**; (4:5)

And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having **seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth**. (5:6)

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. **(1)** The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, **(2)** the spirit of wisdom and **(3)** understanding, **(4)** The spirit of counsel and **(5)** strength, **(6)** The spirit of knowledge and **(7)** the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:2)

Unsure. Leave this question open for further study.

- v5: **Jesus**: faithful witness, 1st born from dead, ruler, loves us, released us from sin by His blood.
  - v6a: **Jesus** has made us to be a kingdom
  - v6b: we are priests to **the Father**, who has glory and dominion forever and ever
  - v7: **Jesus** is coming with the clouds (Daniel 7:13). Every eye will see Jesus, all tribes of earth will mourn over Jesus.
  - v8: Alpha and Omega (first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, a metaphor), who is, was, and is to come, the Lord God Almighty (is this the Father or the Son?). See also Rev 21:6 (the Father, who sits on the throne), and Rev 22:13 (the Son, who is coming quickly). Leave this question open until later study.
- compare with Daniel 7

- **the Father:** Ancient of Days, hair like wool (7:9), books opened, beast judged (7:10-12)
- **Jesus:** like a son of man (Rev 1:13, Dan 7:13), has dominion (Rev 1:6, Dan 7:14), holds the key to Death and Hades (Rev 1:18) – implies authority to judge.

- Ask if any similes or metaphors are used in 1:4-8

## 5 Historical setting: Rev 1:9-11

- 1:9: persecution, in exile on the island of Patmos
- 1:10: in the Spirit on the Lord's day, heard a voice *like* the sound of a trumpet: an angel (this is a simile) It is not Jesus, who has a voice *like* the sound of many waters. See also 4:1:

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." (Rev 4:1)

- 1:11: write what you see and send to the seven churches.
- simile/metaphor found: 1:10, angel's voice *like* the sound of a trumpet.
- Ask if any other similes or metaphors are used in 1:9-11.

## 6 The vision of Jesus: Rev 1:12-16

- many similes in this section:
  - (1:13) Jesus is *like* a son of man. Is His robe/sash a metaphor or simile?
  - (1:14) Jesus' hair white *like* wool, *like* snow, eyes *like* flame,
  - (1:15) feet *like* bronze, voice *like* many waters.
  - (1:16) sword from His mouth: metaphor? A sword would not literally be clenched in His teeth; this seems to be a metaphor. See next section.
- Ask if any other similes or metaphors are used in 1:9-11.

## 7 John's response and Jesus' instructions: Rev 1:17-20

- (1:17) John *like* a dead man. Reverential and literal fear of the LORD.
- (1:17) Jesus tells John not to be afraid.
- (1:18) Jesus was literally and literally alive forevermore. He holds the keys of death and Hades – implying authority to judge.
- (1:19) Jesus gives His instructions to John.

- (1:20) Jesus explains the metaphor. There are 7 literal stars in His hands, symbolically representing the 7 angels of the 7 churches. The seven lampstands are literal, but stand as metaphors for the seven churches.

## 8 The sword from His mouth, Rev 1:16

Is this metaphor? It seems to be. It can be read that the LORD has a literal sword, and that *also* His Word is metaphorically described as a sword. This will be studied in a later lesson.

- Compare Isaiah 49:2, which is clearly a simile:

He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver.

- Deut 32:39-42: arrows drunk with blood: *drunk* is a clearly metaphor, but the arrows can be read as literal. Is My flashing sword also? Seems here that the sword is literal too. However, And My hand takes hold on justice, is a metaphor since justice is a concept, not a physical object to hold in the hand. Likewise, a sword does not literally devour flesh. It kills. The use of the word devour is a metaphor.

See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand. Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever, If I sharpen My flashing sword, And My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, And I will repay those who hate Me. I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.

- Job 5:13-16: the sword of their mouth is a metaphor, since people do not have swords in their mouths. Their words cut like swords.

He captures the wise by their own shrewdness, And the advice of the cunning is quickly thwarted. By day they meet with darkness, And grope at noon as in the night. But He saves from the sword of their mouth, And the poor from the hand of the mighty. So the helpless has hope, And unrighteousness must shut its mouth.

- Psalm 7:12-13: arrows fiery shafts sounds like a metaphor.

If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

- Psalm 57:4,7 : a metaphor, since their tongues are not literally sharp swords.

My soul is among lions; I must lie among those who breathe forth fire, Even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows And their tongue a sharp sword. ... Behold, they belch forth with their mouth; Swords are in their lips, For, they say, " Who hears?"

- Psalm 64:4: simile

Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed bitter speech as their arrow,

- Psalm 149:6: metaphor

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

- Prov 12:18: simile

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- Proverbs 30:14: simile

There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords And his jaw teeth like knives, To devour the afflicted from the earth And the needy from among men.

- Isaiah 34:6: the sword of the LORD can be read as literal, but filled with blood, sated with fat is metaphor.

The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, It is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, With the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah And a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

- Ezekiel 21:1-10: mixture of literal and metaphor. Can be read as a literal sword of the LORD. The phrase hearts will melt is clearly a metaphor.

And the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem, and speak against the sanctuaries and prophesy against the land of Israel; and say to the land of Israel, 'Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am against you; and I will draw My sword out of its sheath and cut off from you the righteous and the wicked. Because I will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore My sword will go forth from its sheath against all flesh from south to north. Thus all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have drawn My sword out of its sheath. It will not return to its sheath again." ' As for you, son of man, groan with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight. And when they say to you, 'Why do you groan?' you shall say, 'Because of the news that is coming; and every heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint and all knees will be weak as water. Behold, it comes and it will happen,' declares the Lord GOD." Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy and say, 'Thus says the LORD.' Say, 'A sword, a sword sharpened And also polished! 'Sharpened to make a slaughter, Polished to flash like lightning!'

- Ezekiel 30:24-25 : metaphor, since the LORD did not literally put His sword in the hand of the king of Babylon. Nor did the LORD literally break Pharoah's arm. Instead, the LORD put His strength and capacity for war into Babylon, and broke the power of Pharoah.

For I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put My sword in his hand; and I will break the arms of Pharaoh, so that he will groan before him with the groanings of a wounded man. Thus I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh will fall. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I put My sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt.

- Ezekiel 32:10

I will make many peoples appalled at you, and their kings will be horribly afraid of you when I brandish My sword before them; and they will tremble every moment, every man for his own life, on the day of your fall.

- Zechariah 9:13: My bow used as a metaphor

For I will bend Judah as My bow, I will fill the bow with Ephraim. And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece; And I will make you like a warriors sword.

- Eph 6:17: metaphor

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Hebrews 4:12 : metaphor or simile (“sharper than”)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.